



Department of Justice

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DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA CATTLE INSPECTOR SENTENCED

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that Galen J. Niehues, 42, of Cozad, Nebraska, was sentenced in Lincoln on June 22, 2011, to 5 years of probation by United States District Judge Richard G. Kopf, following his conviction for mail fraud involving false inspection reports he sent to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

Niehues was employed by the NDA between July 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. His job duties included identifying cattle producers, performing on-site inspections of farm and cattle operations, interviewing cattle producers, taking samples of cattle feed and submitting feed samples for laboratory analysis for the possible presence of ingredients prohibited by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, and completing reports to document his on-site inspections and feed sample collections.

Niehues worked from his home in Cozad, and was to travel to cattle-producing operations in the state and perform his inspections. He was then to submit reports and other related paperwork, by mail, to the NDA in Lincoln, where they would be reviewed and sent on to an FDA office in Kansas City.

Niehues, however, did not inspect the cattle operations but fabricated information contained in the reports he submitted. His conduct was discovered after the FDA received letters from several Nebraska farmers notifying the FDA Niehues had not inspected the cattle as he represented in his reports.

As part of his probation, Niehues will be required to pay \$42,812.10 in restitution to the NDA, for salary and benefits paid to him during his employment.

The case was investigated by the Office of Criminal Investigations of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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